

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lenwood Faulcon, Jr. on 2/26/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) An electronic camera comprising:

an image pick-up unit disposed on an optical path of light that enters the electronic camera, the image pick-up unit including a photoelectric converter that receives the light; and

a shutter unit disposed on the optical path between the photoelectric converter and a portion of the camera through which the light enters the camera, the shutter unit housing a single set of a plurality of shutter blades;

a portion of the image pick-up unit that opposes the shutter unit protruding into a portion of the shutter unit,

wherein the shutter unit includes a lens-side frame located on one side of the plurality of shutter blades that faces away from the image pick-up unit, the lens-side

frame has a first opening part to transmit the light to the plurality of shutter blades, and an image pick-up unit-side frame on other side of the shutter unit that opposes the image pick-up unit, the image pick-up unit-side frame has a second opening part to transmit the light to the photoelectric converter,

wherein all of the shutter blades are disposed between the lens-side frame and the image pick-up unit-side frame, the portion of the image pick-up unit that opposes the shutter unit is located between all of the shutter blades and the photoelectric converter when all of the shutter blades are in extended positions to block the light from reaching the photoelectric converter, and protruding into the second opening part of the image pick-up unit-side frame.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 15-22** are allowed.
3. The reason for allowance has been stated by the Applicant in the remarks filed 12/5/2009 in condition with additional limitation of “a single set of a plurality of shutter blades” as set in the Examiner's amendment above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NHAN T. TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NHAN T TRAN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622